(a) the reasons for not including newsprint paper production industry in "Core Sector";

(b) whether much difficulties are being faced in production of newsprint paper and in distribution thereof because this industry does not belong to "Core Sector";

(c) whether the Government propose to include this industry in "Core Sector"; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (d). Government keep a constant watch on the problems of the newsprint industry. Remedial action is taken to solve the problems of the industry as and when necessary. Newsprint is an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act. In general, there has been no report of difficulties being faced in production and distribution of newsprint on account of the newsprint industry not being in the core sector.

Export of Computers

5611. SHRI RAM SABAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether computers are being exported by India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the companies exporting computers; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of computers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI MATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The value of export of computer hardware including computer systems was Rs. 297.8 crores during 1990-91. The items being exported are Personal Computers, PC/XTs. PC/ATs, Mother Boards of the Personal Computers, Add-on Cards and Computer Peripherals like Colour Monitors and Key Boards. Some of the major companies which are exporting such computer hardware items on regular basis are as under:-

i) Modi Olivetti Ltd.

ii) Zenith Computers Ltd.

iii) Unicorp. Computers Ltd.

iv) HCL Ltd.

v) Wipro Information Technology Ltd.

vi) Altos India Ltd.

vii) DCM Data Products Ltd.

viii) Namtech Systems Pvt. Ltd.

ix) Eloilex Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.

x) Eastern Peripherals

xi) Sterling Computer Ltd.

xiii) Mini Comp.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to increase the production of computers in the country are given below:-

(i) Industrial licensing including foreign collaboration approval has been made more liberal under the recently announced industrial policy.

(ii) Approval for Foreign equity participation up to 51% has been made automatic.

(iii) Constraints faced by the computer manufacturers in locating their units in the vicinity of metropolitan areas have been removed.

(iv) The upper ceiling limit on plant and machinery in respect of SSI units has been enhanced from Rs. 35 lakhs to Rs. 60 lakhs and to Rs. 75 lakhs in respect of SSI units exporting at least 30% of their production.

(v) Broad-banding has been allowed for the optimal use of capital equipment installed.

(vi) The minimum percentage of value addition for exports has been reduced to 15% to boost export to hard currency areas.

(vii) The procedure for grant of advance licence has been simplified. Government has proposed to speed up issue of advance licences within 15 days of the filing of application by the exporting unit.

(viii) The EXIM Scrip in case of export of electronic items including computers has been made 40% of the FOB value.

(ix) The EXIM Scrip under the advance licence scheme has also been increased to 30% of net foreign exchanged earned. This is applicable to Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and Export Oriented Units (EOUs).

Issue of Industrial Licences

5612. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether before starting the new industries/factories it is absolutely necessary to get clearance first from Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(b) the number of new industries in which production was delayed due to the delay causes in getting clearance from the said Ministry during the last two years; and

(c) the suggestions under the consideration of Government to streamline it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF.P.J. KURIEN): (a) As per the Statement on Industrial Policy tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 24th July, 1991, industrial licensing has been abolished for all projects except for a short list of industries as long as they conform to the locational policy. The location of the industrial projects will continue to be regulated by Zoning and Land Use Regulation and Environmental Legislation.

When a Letter of Intent (LOI) is issued for setting up of an industrial unit requiring industrial licence, a standard condition is incorporated that they should obtain clearance from the State Pollution Control Board. A Letter of Intent is converted into industrial Licence only after the conditions in the LOI are fulfilled.